

# KING CAESAR HOUSE

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, June 9, 1983

## Help Rebuild King Caesar's Fence

The following letter has been sent to all members of the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society; but the King Caesar fence is a matter of concern for everyone in the town; so this is being made an open letter to you as a concerned resident of Duxbury. We welcome anyone who cares to join in the preservation of old Duxbury.

In this Centennial Year, the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society is faced with a crisis. That beautiful fence at the King Caesar House, many years after its last major repair, is in critical condition, so bad, in fact, that the palings will break off in your hand.

The fence has been repaired before, most recently when Madame Weber-Fulop, the distinguished artist, owned the house. One night the fence was vandalized, the next day the boys were caught; and all winter an old carpenter named Harold spent his time (when the weather was warm enough) reconstructing the fence in the King Caesar barn.

The original sketches for the fence have been preserved, and were probably drawn about 1808, for a handwritten inscription says "Fence for the new house on King Caesar Road." In any case, the drawings were followed meticulously in the original construction, then in the rebuilding, and will be again this year.

The difficulty is that now we have no ship's carpenters fitting out a vessel at the wharf who can be detached to build a fence for the boss; nor do we have an old craftsman, in need of a winter's work, and happy to be kept busy for near subsistence. In

1983, we must pay modern wages for top artisans to rebuild a precious antique, and that will cost about \$7000.

And so we are asking you, as someone who appreciates the dignity and the heritage of our town, to help us rebuild King Caesar's fence just as it was, with its lovely curves, its Greek revival urns, its slim elegant palings. Any contribution, great or small, will be most welcome; but come summer, and the time to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Society, the fence must be in place, as perfect as if Ezra Weston was once again leading Jerusha into their new house for the first time.